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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

20 July 1950

MEMORANDUM

SUBJECT: The Korean Situation

I. Military Situation.

Northern Korean tank-infantry teams are continuing the frontal attack on Taejon but official reports indicate that the city is still held by US troops. The area held by the Southern First Corps to the east of the US position at Taejon has remained relatively quiet, but further to the east the invaders are continuing to press down the central corridor leading to Kunchon and Taegu and brisk action is taking place on the east coast in the vicinity of Yongdok. A second carrier strike on targets in Northern Korea has inflicted additional heavy losses on enemy aircraft caught on the ground.

Enemy forces of at least regimental strength, accompanied by tanks and artillery, have crossed the Kum River west of Taejon and are now in the Iri-Nonsan-area, but there is yet no indication whether this force will move southward toward Kwangju and the seaport of Mukpo or swing east to flank Taejon. Northern forces have resumed the attack on Taejon, employing tanks and artillery against US defensive positions with official reports indicating considerable success for US anti-tank weapons in this engagement. There is little action along the right flank of the US position of Taejon where the Southern First Corps faces the Northern 2nd and 3d Divisions and it is possible that the 3d Division is now assisting the enemy 4th Division at Taejon. Further to the east, enemy possession of Yechon at the head of the vital corridor leading to Kunchon on the main rail line has been confirmed. Although the enemy was reported driven back north of Yongdok on the east coast yesterday, a later enemy tank, infantry and artillery attack has reportedly captured the town.

Although poor weather hampered PEAF air operations during the past 24 hours, the second successive strike on Northern Korean targets was made by carrier aircraft. Carrier claims include eighteen aircraft destroyed and two damaged on the ground, two gunboats strafed and

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damaged, five tank-cars burned, four locomotives destroyed, and a large chemical plant set on fire. The attacking aircraft found the Wonsan oil refinery still burning from the previous day's raid.

III. Other Developments.

The United Nations Commission on Korea (UNCOOK), currently located in the southern port city of Pusan, has decided that under present circumstances the activities of UNCOOK observers should be expanded. The Commission agreed that the number of observers should be increased, and that their expanded duties should include the investigation of atrocity stories to prepare factual reports to the UN. Other functions include gathering information from refugees and other sources to provide social and political guidance for the future and duties relating to "the eventual withdrawal" of invading forces.

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